of ordinary skill that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

The term "absolute value independent" is consistent with the specification. In particular, the invention does not perform any absolute value operation on the processing samples of an input signal having a synchronization pulse and a plurality of non-synchronization pulses to determine whether such pulses have a predetermined sequence.

The shape detector, as described on pages 12-13 of the specification, utilizes slope analysis of the various time-varying and non-time varying portions. By performing inversion, as in Pletz-Kirsch US 5,053,869, the slope analysis would not be accurate. The invention requires a direct analysis of the various time varying and non-time varying portions to determine whether a synchronization pulse exist amongst a plurality of non-synchronizing pulses. Note inversion is analogous to performing an absolute value operation because all negative values associated with a sample are inverted to positive. This hampers determining the actual slope of various portions of a sample, which the invention uses in determining a synchronization pulse. Essentially, the term "absolute value independent" is used to distinguish from those systems that require inverting their input sample or the like in determining a synchronization pulse, such as Pletz-Kirsch '869.

Therefore, claims 17-28 are deemed to be allowable.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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